

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03
TRSE-00 /108 W
-----060102 271817Z /70

R 271658Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4828
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
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AMMAN FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS XF
SUBJECT: MEDIA JANUARY 27 ENGAGED IN HOLDING ACTION

REF: CAIRO 02945

SUMMARY. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY MAIN PRESS ANGLE JANUARY 27. MUBARAK LEAVES ON ARAB TOUR JANUARY 28 RETURNING FEBRUARY 1. KAMEL EXPLAINED TO ARAB AMBASSADORS HOW "ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE" LED TO INTERRUPTION DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS, ATHERTON COMING NEXT WEEK AND KAMEL SAYS EGYPT WILLING "LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY." BOUTROS GHALI SAW AFRICAN AMBASSADORS, LEAVES FOR TWO-DAY VISIT TO BELGRADE JANUARY 29. MILITARY COMMITTEE MAY REOPEN. PRESS SUGGESTS JORDAN WILL JOIN NEGOTIATIONS. BEGIN BLAMED AGAIN. EGYPTIANS READY RESUME DIRECT TALKS, BUT BELIEVE BEGIN DESIRE TO BLOCK STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND ARMS SALES INDICATE LACK OF GOOD FAITH. END SUMMARY.

1. DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN. PRINCIPAL STORY WAS EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE. MUBARAK WILL BEGIN HIS TOUR OF ARAB STATES JANUARY 28 BEGINNING WITH SUDAN. LEAVES FOR RIYADH SAME DAY AND PROCEEDS TO JORDAN JANUARY 29. THEN GOES TO KUWAIT, IRAN AND OMAN, ARRIVING QATAR AND BAHRAIN JANUARY 31. MUBARAK WILL BE IN ABU DHABI FEBRUARY 1 AND RETURN DIRECTLY TO CAIRO.

2. FORMIN KAMEL MET WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS JANUARY 26. ALL STATES REPRESENTED EXCEPT FIVE REJECTIONISTS. SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KAMAL REPRESENTED PLO. KAMEL EXPLAINED STATE OF PLAY AND "ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE" WHICH LED TO RECALL OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM SAID KAMAL, FORMIN "AFFIRMED INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ROLE." MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI MET WITH 26 AFRICAN AMBASSADORS. SAID U.S. MEDIATION CONTINUES. GHALI DUE TO LEAVE FOR BELGRADE JANUARY 29 FOR TWO-DAY VISIT.

3. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. MAIN SUBSTANTIVE ITEM IS STILL U.S.-MEDIATED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. GUMHURIYYA RED BANNER, UNCONNECTED TO ANY TEXTUAL SUPPORT, PROCLAIMED "AMERICAN PRESSURE ON WAY TO SUCCESS." PRESS ALSO CLAIMS PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT HAVE EXCHANGED NUMBER OF MESSAGES IN PAST TWO DAYS. GUMHURIYYA SAYS DECLARATION MUST REFLECT (A) LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; (B) SELF-DETERMINATION; AND (C) PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN TALKS TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE. ALL REPORTS EXPECT ATHERTON IN CAIRO SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. KAMEL TOLD ARAB AMBASSADORS "EGYPTIANS WILL LISTEN TO WHAT ATHERTON HAS TO SAY."

4. MILITARY COMMITTEE. PRESS TENDING SUGGEST COMMITTEE

WILL RESUME ITS WORK SOON. REPORTED YADIN STATEMENT THAT "ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTERS WILL MEET NEXT WEEK." NOTES GEN. TAMIR SUMMONED TO ISRAEL BY WEIZMAN FOR CONSULTATIONS BEFORE SUNDAY CABINET MEETING "WHICH WILL DECIDE ON DATE TO RESUME MILITARY COMMITTEE." KAMEL, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY TOLD ARAB AMBASSADORS THAT RESUMPTION OF MILITARY TALKS WILL DEPEND ON "REASONABLE ISRAELI PROPOSALS WHICH AGREE WITH EGYPTIAN POSITION."

5. JORDAN. MEDIA CONTINUES BRUIT POSSIBILITY JORDAN WILL PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS. PAPERS REPORTED HIKMAT AL MASRI VISIT TO AMMAN "TO DISCUSS JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION." ALSO NOTES ATHERTON WILL VISIT AMMAN JANUARY 28 FOR TALKS WITH HUSSEIN. PAPERS ALSO CARRY STATEMENT BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KHADDAM ON SYRIAN/JORDANIAN CRISIS OVER SADAT INITIATIVE,
WHICH SOME OBSERVERS TAKE AS EVIDENCE OF JORDANIAN
INTEREST JOIN NEGOTIATIONS.

6. U.S. ARMS. ACCORDING PRESS, BEGIN ENGAGED ALL OUT
CAMPAIGN TO FORCE NEGATIVE U.S. DECISION ON ARMS SALES
TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. REPORTS NOTE U.S. HAS YET
TO MAKE DECISION ON F-15 SALES TO SAUDIS.

7. COMMENT. EDITORIALS CONTINUE ACCUSE BEGIN OF STATE-
MENTS DESIGNED OBSTRUCT TALKS AND CAUTION HIM THAT IF
ISRAEL WANTS SECURITY, IT CANNOT ATTAIN IT BY ANNEXATION
OF ARAB LAND. ISRAELI DESIRE FOR PEACE QUESTIONED REPEAT.
- EDLY AND POSITED AS ONLY ELEMENT WHICH CAN LEND MEANING
TO DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH COMMENTARY HEWS
TO NUMBINGLY FAMILIAR THEMES, IT NONETHELESS FAITHFULLY
REFLECTS EGYPTIAN VIEWS. DESPITE GROWING PESSIMISM
THERE IS WIDESPREAD HOPE THAT AGREEMENT ON DECLARATION
OF PRINCIPLES WILL BE POSSIBLE. THERE IS, HOWEVER,
DEEPENING DOUBT THAT ISRAEL WOULD BRING GOOD FAITH EVEN
TO THIS AGREEMENT SINCE BEGIN SEEN AS DETERMINED TO
GO ALL OUT TO BLOCK EGYPTIAN ASPIRATIONS ON EVERY ISSUE,
FROM DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO EGYPTIAN ARMS REQUEST.

8. AT SAME TIME, EGYPTIANS CLEARLY HOPING RE-ENGAGE
ISRAELIS IN DIRECT TALKS. THEY CONCLUDING, HOWEVER,
THAT JERUSALEM MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT PLACE FOR SUCH TALKS.
SOME EGYPTIAN DELEGATES FELT THEY WERE HARRIED BY
EXCESSIVE PRESS SCRUTINY AND NEGOTIATING PRESSURE AND

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Message Attributes

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